

- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) There is no such proposal.
- (g) Does not arise.

**Statutory Dues to the Closed  
M/s Sylvania Laxman Ltd.**

6016. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that M/s Sylvania Laxman Ltd. Moti Nagar, New Delhi is lying closed since April, 1996;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the employees of this Company have not been paid any salary since April, 1996;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government have directed the management to pay the dues (salary, gratuity etc.) of the employees immediately and mitigate their hardships;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (g) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that M/s. Sylvania & Laxman Ltd., Moti Nagar, New Delhi informed in June, 1996 of the shifting of one of its sections to Noida on the ground of disconnection of power and non-availability of raw materials. The workmen were also directed to report for duty at Noida.

It has also been reported that on receiving a complaint from Sylvania & Laxman Karamchari Sangh on 10.6.96 against the management of the Company for non payment of wages for the months of April and May, 1996, the Labour Department of the National Capital Territory of Delhi initiated conciliation proceedings and a settlement was arrived between the management and the workmen on 2.7.96 wherein the management agreed to pay wages for the months of April and May, 1996 by 8.7.96 and 15.7.96 respectively. The management of the company has stated the shortage of funds as the reason for non-payment of wages.

The workmen have not been paid wages since April, 1996. The Government of N.C.T. of Delhi had issued a recovery certificate under Sec. 33-C(1) of the I.D. Act, 1947 on 18.7.96 for Rs. 65,24,868.50/- to recover the salary of the employees for the months of April and May, 1996 but this was challenged by the management in Civil Writ Petition in High Court of Delhi. Another recovery certificate under Section 25-0(6) read with Section 33(c) (1) of the Act has been issued on 17.4.97 for Rs. 218,74,421.70/- towards the salary from June to November, 1996.

**HUDCO Assistance**

6017. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation has decided to provide Rs. 522 crore assistance to Andhra Pradesh during the current financial years;
- (b) if so, the total amount provided to the State Government during 1996-97;
- (c) the total amount spent from the assistance provided to the State during 1996-97;
- (d) the projects undertaken by the State Government to utilise this fund;
- (e) whether any concrete programme of action has been prepared by the State Government in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Based on area and population state-wise allocation of loan is made by HUDCO only for housing schemes. No state-wise advance allocation is made for urban development/infrastructure schemes. The quantum of assistance for such schemes will depend on the demands from the States. During the current financial year HUDCO has communicated an allocation of Rs. 40.78 crores for Andhra Pradesh representing 50% of the annual allocation. Final allocation for the whole year may, however, vary depending on demand and performance of States.

(b) During 1996-97, HUDCO has sanctioned a total loan amount of Rs. 202 crores to the State of Andhra Pradesh for Housing Schemes and disbursed an amount of Rs. 155.45 crores. In addition HUDCO has sanctioned a total loan amount of Rs. 290.39 crores to Andhra Pradesh for 29 urban infrastructure schemes and the amount released to the State was Rs. 31.53 crores.

(c) The utilisation reports from implementing agencies are not available with HUDCO.

(d) to (f) The details of housing and urban infrastructure projects sanctioned by HUDCO to the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 are being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Arsenic and Fluoride Contamination**

6018. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the West Bengal Government has submitted a Rs. 4.58 crores research and development project on arsenic and fluoride contamination to the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto particularly when 70 blocks have been found to have arsenic content above the permissible limit of 0.05 milligram per litre while the scourge of silicosis has also aroused an alarm ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per information received from Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, several research and development projects have been sanctioned under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Mission by the Government. These are as follows:-

I. R&D Projects (concluded):

(i) Sub-Mission Project on Arsenic Pollution in Ground Water in West Bengal at a project cost of Rs. 10.82 lakhs by School of Tropical Medicines and AIH & PH in January, 1988.

(ii) Study of arsenic contamination in six districts of West Bengal at a project cost of Rs. 4.125 lakhs in March, 1994. The first phase of study has been completed by Jadavpur University, Calcutta.

(iii) R&D Project on Epidemiological study for assessing toxicity in chronic arsenic affected areas at a project cost of Rs. 4.93 lakhs approved in December, 1994. The study has been concluded by Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, Calcutta.

II. R&D Projects (ongoing):

(i) R&D Projects on control of arsenic and other chemical pollutants approved at a project cost of Rs. 2.74 lakhs. The study has been entrusted to Presidency College, Calcutta.

(ii) Development of low cost filtering medium for removal of arsenic from ground water approved by Govt. of India in 1995-96 at a project cost of Rs. 3.304 lakhs. The study has been entrusted to National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur.

(iii) Geology and geochemistry of arsenic occurrences in ground water of six districts in West Bengal approved by Government of India in March, 1996 at the project cost of Rs. 4.78 lakhs. The study has been entrusted to the Centre for Study of Man and Environment, Calcutta.

**Agriculture Development Finance Companies**

6019. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State level agriculture development finance companies are likely to be set up in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

Development (NABARD), all State Governments have been requested by them to indicate their willingness to have agriculture Development Finance Companies (ADFCs) set up in their respective States having due regard to, inter alia, available business potential in the States. However, Government of Assam has so far not responded to NABARD in the matter.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**NABARD**

6020. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in any State by the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank for setting up of agriculture based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the amount likely to be mobilised by the National Agriculture Rural Development Bank for these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has conducted one potential survey on agro-processing sector in Gujarat covering six districts of the State as well as a product study on packaging material based on agro-waste in six States.

The final reports on the survey in Gujarat contain, inter alia, project profiles for 38 activities which have potential in the districts covered. The findings are being widely publicised among banks and concerned agencies. While the State Government is required to take necessary steps to provide infrastructure and other facilities for the identified potential in the report, the banks have been advised to incorporate the potential identified in their service area plans and make adequate provisions for assisting the entrepreneurs with loans.

The product study on packaging material based on agro-waste covered the States of Kerala, Assam, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The study focusses on development of packaging material using locally available resources in rural areas, especially biomass and agricultural wastes, and establishment of production units in the decentralised sector. The study also identified potential for viable projects such as particle board and JRP sheets from jute sticks and craft paper and COPB boxes from cotton stalks. They would need to provide adequate credit support where necessary with refinance support from NABARD and the concerned State Governments will have to ensure infrastructural and other linkages support.

(c) NABARD has reported that no specific amount is proposed to be mobilised for the above purpose. For the identified potential in the above studies, the banks will have to provide credit support after satisfying themselves with technical feasibility and financial viability of the specific projects submitted to them. NABARD had, however, allo-